

# COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

VOL. XXVIII. No. 9.] LONDON, SATURDAY, SEPT. 2, 1815. [Price 1s.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

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## NOTICE.

In consequence of the additional tax of a halfpenny, imposed by government, on newspapers, the Register will in future be sold at 1s.  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Numerous complaints having been made of irregularity in the delivery of the Register, the readers are informed, that this may be obviated by applying, (*letters post paid*) to the publisher. Those gentlemen who have not received the *Five Letters to Lord Sheffield*, published last week, may still be supplied, on giving orders to their newsmen.

The Indexes, Titles and Tables, for Volumes 25, 26, and 27, will be completed and ready for delivery to Newsmen and others, on Saturday, the 9th of September. In future, the Title and Index will form part of the Number which shall close every quarter of a year; so that the readers will all be regularly supplied with them, without any inconvenience, or any additional expence or trouble.—The Tables of Prices of Bread, Wheat, and Meat, to which will now be added that of Wool; and of the English and French Funds, together with the number of Bankrupts, will now be given weekly, instead of at the end of each volume. It may be convenient for some gentlemen, for temporary purposes, to possess these weekly, without the necessity of applying to other sources of information; but, the great object of them is to enable those who enter into subjects of political economy, that is to say, the matters most interesting to mankind, to refer, at any moment, to data so important to all discussions relative to the situation and prospect of this country.

There is intended to be a Supplement to each Volume, to contain such facts and observations, as may be suppressed, in the course of the Weekly Numbers, for fear of offending the modesty, and thereby exciting the anger, of the parties concerned. In what way this Supplement will make its appearance will hereafter be explained.

## AMERICAN HOAX.

In the "DAILY COURIER," published at Petersburg, in Virginia, on the 10th of July last, and which some friend in England has had the goodness to forward to me, I find the following curious article.

### "COBBETT.

"Cobbett is silenced:—We are sorry for it; his price was 1500*l.* per ann.—it was given him, and he writes no more. This we have from passengers who lately arrived from London. This new instance of a corrupt heart will make the friends of England chuckle; they ought not; it is not only a proof of Cobbett's venality, but also of the corrupt means used by the Government of Great Britain to procure the silence of its adversaries. The great Burke was purchased. Why then feel surprised at Cobbett's tergiversation; both were worth buying, both told unwelcome truths in a style of irresistible language.—We repeat that we are sorry for it. Independent of the facts he descanted upon, his language was fascinating: Americans, therefore, have lost much newspaper amusement. If the truths disclosed by Cobbett had not galled the ministry, the ministry would have suffered Cobbett to sink into oblivion."

How delighted must this gentleman have been in a few days afterwards (for it could hardly be longer) when he found that these passengers had deceived him; and that, in short, he had been *hoaxed*!—For myself and my conduct I have nothing to say here, except that this gentleman's compliments as to my talents are too high; but, there are two passages, in the article, which call for a short remark. "The great Burke" was not purchased by the "Heaven-born Minister," who only gave him a pension of 3,000*l.* a year, with a reversion of 1,500*l.* a year to his wife for her life. That was all.—The reader will perceive that the Editor of the Petersburg Courier supposes, that the "friends of



*England will chuckle*" at my having been silenced; and he will wonder why *they* should, seeing that I am, in proportion to my ability, labouring more for England than any other man living. But, he must observe, that a "*friend of England*" in America means something very different indeed from what the same words mean here. Here, they mean a man attached to the honour and interest of England; holding in abhorrence bribery, corruption, oppression and fraud; a man, who is so anxious about nothing as the real liberty and happiness of the people of England. In America, they mean a man who is the enologist of bribery and corruption; who justifies the selling and buying of seats; who, being an Aristocrat in heart, would calmly see the people in all countries moulded into mere beasts of burden; and who is now burning with rage to see that America has come out of her late struggle with real glory, and that, while she is pushing forward in the path of greatness and prosperity, she has retained her cheap Republican Government. It is monstrous to think, that there should be men of this latter description, even amongst the native Americans; but, that there are such men, though few in number, is undoubtedly true. These are "*the friends of England*," of whom the Petersburg editor speaks; and that such men should have been supposed to be pleased at my being silenced, is certainly what I have no reason to complain of.—However, I must say, that the Petersburg editor was a little too hasty in his publication. He should have known the "*passengers*," and have obtained something like *evidence* of such a fact. If these passengers arrived early in July, they might have carried out Registers of the *middle of May*; and, could they carry out one, *any one*, which did not contain evidence of the falsehood of their tale? The proceeding, therefore, of this gentleman was not strictly just. The penalty I impose on him shall, nevertheless, not be very heavy. He has certainly done me wrong, and the satisfaction I demand is, that he send me, by the earliest opportunity, to the office of the Register, in London, about 100 grains of tobacco seed, and about 50 seeds from a fine water-melon

WM. COBBETT.



## No. II.

## THE ALARM,

or,

*Excitements to a new War with America.*  
—Addressed to the Manufacturers of  
Great Britain and Ireland.

I have, I think, in my Letters to Lord Sheffield, clearly proved, that manufactures, in all branches, have been established in the United States; that machinery of all sorts is in motion; that the raw material is possessed in abundance; and that, as the effect, immense quantities of goods have been made and are making in that country. This wonderful change in the commercial affairs of the world I have proved to have been produced by our Orders in Council, Impressments of American Seamen, and by the late war. Still there is room for English goods in America. For many years, if peace continue between the two countries, English goods may be sent to America in great quantities. The population goes on increasing there at a rapid rate. Supposing the manufactures in America to hold their own, still there will be a demand for English goods. But, only let us have another war with that country of a few years duration, and we may bid adieu to that market for ever. Yet are there several writers in England, who are labouring hard to produce a new war with America.

The COURIER newspaper, which is one of the principal vehicles of these efforts, has the following paragraph upon the subject of American Manufactures. "We are glad to learn that cotton goods continue in great demand. Manchester was never known to do more business than it has done for some weeks past. The Americans have assisted greatly in clearing the market; and we may hence be satisfied that the stories of the progress of the cotton trade in the United States are not authentic."

The Editor, or, rather, the authors, the real authors, of this paragraph, had seen the Notice of my intended letters to Lord Sheffield, proving, not asserting, that the cotton and other manufactures were making great progress in the United States, under a cheap, republican government, and amidst a people, the labouring part of whom eat butchers' meat every day once



at least, and, in general, if they choose it, *poultry* once a week, or oftener. This paragraph therefore was intended to check my letters in their effect, by causing the public to believe, that my "*stories*" were "*not authentic*." How, then, must this writer have been surprised, when he found, that it was not "*stories*" that I had to relate, but that I had *evidence* to produce as good, aye, and a great deal *better evidence*, than ever was or ever can be, produced in a Court of Justice. The lives of men are taken away at the gallows upon evidence not nearly so good as that which I have produced to Lord Sheffield of the wonderful increase of American Manufactures. It is a subject which admits of no controversy; for I have left no room for it. The man, who attempts to controvert, must begin by swearing that truth shall be, in future, considered as falsehood.

But, this paragraph of the Courier has another object; namely, that of preparing the nation for another war; as if it had said to you, the Manufacturers, "be not afraid of another war with America; for, you see, she cannot make goods for herself." This was what Lord Sheffield said in 1811. See his report, page 288 of this Volume of the Register. But, I have *proved* that she can make goods for herself; and, therefore, it behoves you to consider, betimes, how you will be affected by another war, to which these men are exciting the nation, as I shall presently shew you.

The TIMES newspaper, of the 23d of August, 1815, after expressing its *regret*, that the most distinguished of the republicans of France had not been *put to death*, concludes thus:—"Why are these *scoundrels* tolerated in *civilized* countries? If they must be sent out of France, instead of being hanged there, as the law would have them to be, why not confide them to the paternal care of Mr. PRESIDENT MADISON? *Birds of a feather should flock together*. By the bye, an *infamous libel* on this country has lately been published in America, and Mr. MADISON's friends gave him the honour of its composition. It was probably committed to the press *as soon as he heard of Bonaparte's having reached the Thuilleries*; but it will serve to shew the sentiments of its author, and to mark him out for our *avoidance*."

The word "*avoidance*" was used merely because *hostility* would have let the writer's motive peep out a little too soon. But, here is the President of the United States, with whom we are at peace, called a "*scoundrel*" in an English public print, issued in the metropolis of the kingdom, while the minister of that country is resident here, and is negotiating, as it is said, a treaty of commerce with America. He is directly put upon a level with men, who, as this writer asserts, are "*scoundrels* that deserve to be *hanged*." And yet these same writers have the impudence, and that, too, in the very same paragraph, to complain of "*an infamous libel*," published in America, against *whom*? Why, against "*this country*."

This "*libel*," as they call it, is a publication, which appeared, in America, in March last, bearing date the 10th of February. It is entitled "*An exposition of the causes and character of the late war with Great Britain*." It traces the war to its causes; it describes the conduct of the two parties during the war; and, from first to last, it appeals to official documents for the truth of its assertions. So far from being an "*infamous libel*," it contains not one single rude expression. The style of it is dignified, the language all mildness and moderation. To be sure, it does contain great numbers of most shocking facts; but, so far from its being an attack "*on this country*," it invariably avoids every thing disrespectful to the people of every part of the kingdom. As to its being "*committed to the press as soon as Mr. MADISON heard of Bonaparte's having reached the Thuilleries*," this must be a wilful falsehood; for this writer knows, that it was published in America in MARCH, and he also knows, that the news of Napoleon's having landed at Cannes did not reach London till the middle of that same month of March; and that the news of his having arrived at the Thuilleries did not reach America till the beginning of May.

This EXPOSITION is a publication of great importance. It is not only the most interesting publication that I ever read, but it contains the most useful matter. It has not left the work of *history* to the time when it can be of *no use*. It has done the thing at once, and, without any account of *battles*, which some one else may give, it has put the causes



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and conduct of the war upon safe record, and has placed this record in the hands of every man, woman, and child in America, who now, at this moment, know for a certainty what a glum, gloating despotism would have kept from their knowledge, leaving their posterity to *guess* at it amidst the contradictory assertions of party or venal scribes.

Such a publication, if it bear hard upon our country, or its government, should be *answered*; not *abused*. This hero of the TIMES newspaper, who is a perfect fire-eater of the quill, should assail it from his magazine of *facts* and *arguments*. To call Mr. President Madison a *scoundrel* that deserves to be *hanged*, is no answer to such a publication. The "EXPOSITION" is now republished in England. I have a copy of the pamphlet before me. "And why do *not you* answer it?" Some one may say, I wish, with all my heart, my ability were equal to the task. But, I have before, and I now again, offer to any one, who will answer it, the columns of the Register, through which to convey such answer, as I once offered them to the Botley Parson, as a vehicle for an answer, if he chose to write one, to Paine's Age of Reason. Strange to tell, the Botley Parson *abused me* for this offer, though he agreed with the Attorney General, that the work was calculated to produce the eternal damnation of the souls of those who read it, and though it was notorious that a large edition or two of the work had been sold, and, of course, read. I hope, that I shall not meet with like treatment on the present occasion. There are, as I said before, all the Ministers, all the Privy Councillors, about a thousand Noblemen and Gentlemen of the two Houses of Parliament, about fifteen thousand Bishops, Deans, Arch-Deacons, and other Clergymen of the Established Church, about twelve thousand officers of the Army, about ten thousand officers of the Navy, besides a civil list that costs better than a million sterling a year, and all the innumerable secretaries, commissioners, clerks, sinecure-placemen and pensioners. It is hard indeed if not one is to be found amongst all these, to say nothing of the writers by *trade*, to give an answer to this five-shilling pamphlet, which does not contain so many *letters* as there are persons of the above descriptions at this hour in England. And the bar, too! I

had forgotten the bar and all its "learned friends" and silk gowns and many-tailed wigs. And the Universities, those hotbeds of eloquence and argument. Can they not suspend, for two minutes, the making of nonsense-verses? Will none of them *answer* this pamphlet? And, old "*War in Disguise*!" Where is he now? Well, all that I can say is, that, if this pamphlet be not answered, and that quickly too, John Bull will have good reason to complain.

I presume, that it will not now be pretended, that America is too *insignificant* to be worthy of such notice. There was a time, when it was in fashion to speak of her as being of no consequence at all in the world, and as not being in a state to be spoken of as *a nation*. I never shall forget the cool inscience of the MORNING CHRONICLE, just after the return from America of Mr. JEFFERY, the conductor of the Edinburgh Review, who went to that country, for a short time, previous to the late war. The paragraph of the CHRONICLE, to which I allude, stated, that Mr. JEFFERY, during the time that he was in America, "being dining in company with the President, was asked by the latter, what were the sentiments of *the people* in Great Britain as to the dispute and the probable war with America; our celebrated critic, putting his fingers to his forehead, as if endeavouring to recollect, answered, at the end of a minute or two, '*I think I do remember hearing some person at Liverpool mention the name of America.*'" I will not be answerable for the very words; but, as to the *substance* I pledge myself; and, let the paragraph, which the editor must have, though I have it not, be republished, if I have misrepresented its meaning. It struck me at the time as an instance of the most consummate folly as well as the most consummate insolence. I do not believe that the conversation ever took place; and, I would fain hope, that the publication of the paragraph was unauthorised by Mr. JEFFERY. But, why did he not justify himself against what implied in him such a want of sense and of knowledge, and, indeed, such a barefaced disregard of truth? At any rate, "our celebrated critic" will not need to put his fingers to his forehead; he will not need his considering-cap, to enable him *now* to recollect, whether he has heard any one speak-

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ing about the dispute or war with America. The affairs of Chipawa, Fort Erie, Plattsburg, Point Mobile, and New Orleans; the defeat and total capture of two British squadrons; the defeat of so many single British frigates and smaller vessels of war, will teach him, as well as others, in future, to speak of America in a different tone; and, surely, *he*, at any rate, will *review*, if he do not answer, the Exposition. But, upon this occasion, he must not suppose that the public will be contented with his merely taking the title of the performance, and then running off into a rambling essay, coming to no point, and leaving the reader where he found him. The public will here expect a fair analysis; and, where opinions are expressed, they will require something to justify those opinions.

To call this publication a *libel* is not to give it an answer; it is not to show any zeal in the cause of truth; it is what every knave does, when exposed by the press. According to such people, every one who exposes them is a *libeller*. Either the facts alledged in this publication are false, or they are true. They have been promulgated in another country. If false, it was proper that they should be made known in England, that we might have an opportunity of refuting them: if true, it was equally proper, that we might know what had been the real cause, and the manner of conducting, the war. Yet, necessary as it was that this paper should be republished in England, and though it had long been in the hands of many newspaper proprietors here, my belief is, that it *never* would have been republished in England, had it not been for me, who called the public attention to it in such urgent terms, that, at last, a bookseller was induced to hunt it out and put it to the press. What a shame is this for the press of England! What a disgrace! Had a similar paper been published here, it would have been read by every man in the United States within seven weeks of the day of the original publication. Thus are the people of England kept in a state of ignorance as to those matters, with which, more than any other, they ought to be made acquainted.

Before I quit this part of my subject, I think it may be useful for me to point out the way in which any one, who wishes it, may regularly obtain a knowledge of po-

litical occurrences in the United States. At Baltimore there is a weekly publication, entitled "NILES'S WEEKLY REGISTER," the price of which, in America, is five dollars a year. The form of this work is *large octavo*. It is printed to be bound up in *volumes*, and it appears to me, that it would be worth any London bookseller's while to import a number of copies of this work, either in *numbers*, or in *volumes*. At any rate, I venture to recommend it as an extremely well-conducted and useful publication, and better calculated than any that I know of to afford any person in England a competent knowledge of American politics. Loose daily papers, however well conducted, are not calculated for *durable* utility.

To return, now, to the efforts of these writers to kindle the flames of a new war with America, I shall take an article from the MORNING POST of the 24th August, which print, next to the TIMES and the COURIER, may be looked upon as the mouth-piece of those who would utterly ruin us for the sake of injuring America. The article, which I am about to quote discovers all the feelings and views of this vindictive description of persons, who would see all the manufacturers in England starved rather than give up the hope of making the people of America slaves.—  
 "The anxious attention which the events  
 "passing in Europe have for some weeks  
 "commanded, may be said to have made  
 "the people of England act *as if it were*  
 "*impossible for any thing of interest or*  
 "*of importance to us, to occur in another*  
 "*quarter of the world.* But for the vast  
 "magnitude of those changes which have  
 "occurred in the immediate vicinity of  
 "this country, our *most serious consi-*  
 "*deration* would have been attracted by  
 "*what has occurred on the other side of*  
 "*the Atlantic.* Under other circumstances,  
 "we should have seen with uneasiness and  
 "sorrow (*ALARM is out of the ques-*  
 "*tion*), the unfriendly, or rather the de-  
 "cidedly hostile feeling towards this  
 "country, which is *still cherished* by a  
 "large party in the United States of Ame-  
 "rica. The same indefatigable spirit of  
 "mischief which provoked and sustained  
 "the late war, has been, *within these few*  
 "*months*, as much on the alert as ever  
 "to propagate the *vilest calumnies* against  
 "the conduct and intentions of Great Bri-  
 "tain. Our readers must remember that



"this country was placed *by the intrigues*  
 "of a party in the United PROVINCES,  
 "in a state of war with them, at a time  
 "when it was supposed the resources of  
 "England were so far exhausted by fight-  
 "ing the battles of Europe, that it was  
 "impossible for her successfully to sus-  
 "tain a new war. On the first conquest  
 "of France, and the conclusion of a gene-  
 "ral peace in Europe, the American Go-  
 "vernment found it impossible to continue  
 "the contest with a hope of gaining any  
 "advantages, much less such as were ab-  
 "solutely necessary to console the people  
 "for the sacrifices to which they were  
 "compelled to submit. Under these cir-  
 "cumstances it was thought expedient to  
 "abandon all the ridiculous pretensions  
 "which they had formerly advanced, and  
 "every object for which the war had been  
 "commenced was at once given up. It  
 "was hoped, and with some reason, that  
 "the experience of both nations would  
 "have created a mutual indisposition to a  
 "state of hostility, and this effect has  
 "certainly been produced on every honest  
 "heart and rational head on either side  
 "of the water. But, unhappily, those  
 "who stirred up the late contest, cha-  
 "grined at the termination to which they  
 "had been compelled, as they thought, to  
 "bring it, seized the first opportunity  
 "that offered to attempt reviving the dif-  
 "ferences which had been adjusted at  
 "Ghent. No sooner had the news of the  
 "20th of March reached the American  
 "Continent, than it was supposed, the  
 "same triumph which attended the pro-  
 "gress of Bonaparte to Paris, would still  
 "be his, in his operations against the rest  
 "of Europe. Invested with the supreme  
 "power in France, they thought he might  
 "claim the empire of Charlemagne as his  
 "own, and England, engaged in a new  
 "struggle for the balance of power in  
 "Europe, would afford her foe, in an-  
 "other quarter of the globe, an opportu-  
 "nity of gratifying that hate which they  
 "failed to satisfy before. Believing Na-  
 "poleon re-seated on the throne, to be  
 "restored to all his former power, they  
 "prepared again to enlist among the ef-  
 "fectives in the pay of "the Child and  
 "Champion of Jacobinism;" and every  
 "calumny that malice could invent, and  
 "brainless credulity report to the pre-  
 "judice of England, was welcomed with  
 "rapture. Already the Government were

"admonished not to let the list of their  
 "grievances increase, but (to use the ele-  
 "gant phraseology of the original) "to  
 "settle the score without delay." In  
 "other words, to recur to hostilities, now  
 "that Great Britain had again got her  
 "hands full, as it was likely she would  
 "not soon again be at leisure to direct all  
 "her energies against an American enemy.  
 "They thought a moment not less favour-  
 "able than that of which they had availed  
 "themselves before, presented itself for  
 "indulging their animosity against the  
 "land of their progenitors, and no time  
 "was lost in setting forth its importance.  
 "The battle of Waterloo with Bonaparte  
 "has defeated these speculations, for as  
 "yet we have no reason to think the Ame-  
 "rican Government has committed itself  
 "to them. In truth, we should hope Mr.  
 "Madison and his friends will, for the  
 "present, find enough to employ them  
 "in superintending the rebuilding of  
 "Washington; but we know they un-  
 "fortunately count among their adher-  
 "ents all the war faction, whose language  
 "we have reason to fear continues to be  
 "that of the Government. The discom-  
 "fiture of the hostile plans of the party  
 "we have referred to, is, perhaps, not  
 "one of the least beneficial consequences  
 "of the triumph of the Allies. We trust,  
 "however, what has already occurred  
 "will not escape the notice of the British  
 "Minister, and contemplating the proba-  
 "bility of a new American war, whenever  
 "this country shall be again involved in  
 "difficulties similar to those from which  
 "she had been rescued by the heroism of  
 "her sons, we hope adequate arrange-  
 "ments will be made in time to avert the  
 "danger; and that, profiting from the  
 "hints thrown out by the American jour-  
 "nalists, our Government will not only  
 "'settle the score' without delay, if any  
 "fresh insult has been offered to our good  
 "faith, but also effectually guard against  
 "a new debt being contracted."

Now, what must an American think of  
 the British nation, when he sees that  
 barefaced falsehoods like these are pub-  
 lished in London news-papers?—The first  
 thing to notice here is, that what is pass-  
 ing in America is worthy "our most se-  
 "rious consideration." Yes, even the  
 "feelings" of the Americans, their "po-  
 "litical conversation;" the chit-chat of  
 their news-papers, are worthy of "our



"most serious consideration;" and "*arrangements ought to be made in time in contemplation of the probability of a new war with America, and to avert the danger.*" How changed are things since the contemptuous days of 1812! What! is this the same nation, of whose *bits of striped bunting* Mr. Canning talked? Is this the nation whose name Mr. JEFFERY is said to have with difficulty recollected that he had heard some person pronounce? What an empty man must Mr. Jeffery, or Mr. Perry of the Chronicle, have been! A couple of Scotch writers, or, at least, one or the other of them, affecting, and in print too, to consider as *insignificant* a country, containing sixteen States, out of which sixteen there are four, EACH of which four surpasses SCOTLAND in quantity and value of products, in commerce and navigation, and in all the arts useful to man! This is emptiness and impudence unparalleled. However, the Morning Post says, that even the *talk* of the people of America is now become *worthy of the most serious consideration* of even the Great Statesmen of Great Britain. What a change! The battles of the Lakes and of New Orleans were not fought in vain. There is nothing like a good sound drubbing to teach men modesty. Even Mr. Perry of the Chronicle, *now* calls America "*the Great Republic*;" he who held such contemptuous language towards her at the time when he called the burnings at Washington, under his countryman, Ross, the most "*brilliant dash* of the whole war." He will find some more "*brilliant dashes*," if he look into the "*EXPOSITION.*" Even Mr. Perry has been reduced to modesty upon this subject. The Jacksons and the Decaturs possess great powers of conversion. For my part I have not the least doubt, that, when the news of the burning of the capitol at Washington arrived, there were whole shoals of hungry Scotsmen, too proud either to work or beg, who were on the tip-toe of expectation to be sent out to strut over the reconquered colonists. Of the general industry, talent, integrity, and fidelity of Scotsmen I have often spoken. I have more than once said, in print, that, having had ample opportunities of comparing them with the English and Irish, I have, upon the whole, found them, as to moral conduct, the best of the three; but, with all

this in favour of Scotland, it is certain, that that country does send forth a monstrous number of greedy place-hunters, insolent jacks in office, and prostituted public writers. However, we are all now agreed, that America is a country worthy of "*the most serious consideration.*"—The Morning Post says, indeed, that "*alarm* is out of the question." To be sure it is. Why need we be *alarmed*? Cannot we be still *great* though America should have 30 ships of the line? What should we be *alarmed* at? Why talk about alarm?

The next thing to notice, in this article, is, the assertion, that the Americans gave up at the peace *all that they had contended for in war*. The falsehood of this is notorious. It is notorious, that they gave up *nothing*. It is notorious, that they went to war to prevent us from impressing people out of their ships on the high seas. *We do not now do that*: when we do, they will go to war again. It is notorious, that *we gave up all that we contended for*. It is notorious that we gave up the whole, *sine qua non* and all; and that there was a very successful American privateer, called the *Sine Qua Non*. It is notorious, that the writer of the TIMES news-paper asserted, that we had retired from the contest *covered with disgrace*; that we *came off with the marks of the stripes upon our back*. It is notorious, that the peace was, in England, proclaimed as privately as possible; that it was like the burial of a man who had committed suicide; while, in America, it was received with every demonstration of triumph. And yet the editor of the Morning Post would have his readers believe, that the present anger of the Americans arises from *their failure* in the war; from *their mortification* at their late *discomfiture*! Yes, they must be greatly mortified, when they see two whole squadrons of *British ships* added to their navy, besides so many single frigates and smaller ships of war. Their mortification must be very great when they reflect on the battle of Chipawa, the sally from Fort Erie, the hasty decamping of Sir George Prevost and his army of invincibles from Plattsburg, the repulse of our squadron at Point Mobile, and, above all, they must be ready to suffocate with mortification, when they call to mind the battle of *New Orleans*. If I had room to insert Mr.



INGERSOL's beautiful speech (made in the Congress) upon that battle, you would see what mortification was felt in America upon that occasion, that last battle of the war, a battle in which from 10 to 12 thousand British troops, aided by the seamen and marines of a mighty fleet, were nearly one half killed and wounded, and the rest driven back to their ships, by the inhabitants of the place, joined by the militia of Kentucky and Tennessee, who came to their assistance. Great, indeed, must be the mortification of the Americans when they reflect on occurrences like this.

Nor is there better ground for the assertion, that the Americans have been encouraged to hold their present language by the return of Napoleon to France, and their expectations of his regaining the "empire of Charlemagne." It is notorious, that *all* parties in America have uniformly *condemned* the spirit of *conquest* in Napoleon. It is notorious, that they have *all* disapproved of his being an Emperor. It is notorious, that Mr. JEFFERSON has expressed this sentiment in writing and in print. It is notorious, that it is contrary to the *interest* of America that France should subjugate her neighbours, and especially towards the North of Europe. And, it being notorious, that Napoleon was actually *at Elba*, while America *by her arms* induced England to make a peace, abandoning a *sine qua non*, and coming off, as the TIMES newspaper said, with the marks of the stripes upon her back, is it not preposterous to suppose, that the Americans wanted the return of Napoleon to give them courage to speak their minds?

Indeed, the Americans appear, from the language of their public prints, to have entertained great doubt as to the ability of Napoleon, to resist the innumerable armies, which we were paying to march against France; as a proof of which I insert the following extract from the *National Intelligencer*, which is looked upon as a sort of demi-official government paper in America, and which, on the 13th of July, makes these remarks.—

"We are no longer in doubt as to the situation of Naples, Denmark, and Sweden, and the hostile intentions of the Confederates, have developed themselves in preparations that wear the most formidable aspect. The hopes placed by Bonaparte in the effects of negotiation,

"have been baffled by a peremptory refusal to treat with him; for, we scarcely credit the report of a diplomatic intercourse with Austria. Bonaparte has been thrown exclusively on the spirit, courage, and resources of France. Will these suffice? Yes, in one event; that is, if civil liberty, and its energies, be restored to the people. Republican France triumphed over all Europe: Imperial France alone was successfully invaded."

Thus, you see, so far from *making sure* of Napoleon's success, the Americans entertained very serious doubts of it; and, indeed, it appears, that they only *wished* it, on the condition of his restoring to France her civil liberties under a republican form of government.

All the assertions, therefore, of these writers, who are endeavouring to prepare the people of England for another war with America, are shown to be false. That the Americans are *angry*, and use angry language, is very certain; but, the real cause of that anger these venal scribes carefully keep from your view. The Americans make *complaints*. Read the "Exposition," and then join me in calling for an answer to it. The Americans complain of the killing of their faithful countrymen, *in Dartmoor prison*, after the *ratification of the peace*. Read the "Exposition," containing the history of the *imprisonment* of those brave and faithful men; then read the authentic and official *account of that killing*, which account is contained in this present number of the Register: and, when you have read these two, and have had the justice to make the case our own for a moment, then decide whether the Americans have, or have not, cause for anger.

To you, the manufacturers of Great Britain, I have addressed myself more particularly upon this occasion; because, as I have *proved* in my Letters to LORD SHEFFIELD, another war, of any considerable duration, would deprive you, *for ever*, of the American market, which, if peace continue, may yet assist to enable you to meet the inevitable burden of taxation; and because, being an active part of the community, you may contribute largely, by *timely* exertions, to prevent the conflict into which these malignant writers are endeavouring to plunge the nation.

WM. CORBETT.



TO

*All those Protestant Priests, who have, for years, been preaching and praying against the French Assemblies and Napoleon; and particularly to the Protestant Priests of New England.*

Botley, 1 Sep. 1815.

GENTLEMEN,—It is perfectly notorious, that, before the French revolution, amongst the standing objects of your attack, were the Pope, the Monks, the Catholic religion in general, the Jesuits, the Inquisition. Next to the Devil, the Pope appeared to be the most hateful to you. Next to his imps, the Dominicans and the Jesuits. Next to the torments of Hell, you described, and justly, the torments inflicted on Protestants by Catholics, at the instigation of their priests, whose religion you called idolatrous, and tending to the eternal perdition of millions upon millions of precious souls.

Adopting your sentiments, taught by your sermons, great numbers of people rejoiced at a revolution, which, in its progress, tumbled the Pope from his chair, drove out the Dominicans and the remains of the Jesuits, put down the infernal Inquisition, and let millions of men loose to worship according to their consciences. What was the astonishment of these people, then, when, instead of hearing you put up thanksgiving for this change, they heard you load the French Assemblies and Napoleon with execrations, and stigmatize as Jacobins and *enemies of religion* all those of your flocks, who distinguished themselves by expressing their delight at it! And, how shall I express the feelings that filled their breasts, when they heard you putting up thanksgivings for the fall of him, who had confirmed, over great part of Europe, liberty of religion, and on whose ruin arose, as they necessarily would, the Pope, the Dominicans, the Jesuits, the Inquisition, and all the persecutions, which formerly you so pathetically called on your hearers to lament!

"Aye! But—but, things are different in these days. The Romish priests, in France are a good kind of men. And, besides, *any* religion is better than no religion at all."

These were amongst your excuses, when you hailed, and in Boston, I believe, actually made *processions* to celebrate, the restoration to the throne of France

of the "*paternal*" descendants of Francis the First, Charles the Ninth, and Louis the Fourteenth, in each of whose reigns more Protestants were murdered in one month than there were French people put to death during a revolution of twenty-five years.

Well! the Bourbons are restored. According to your notion, they and their Allies have carried back religion to France. Read the following account of what has taken place at the fine city of NISMES, and then hear me again.

"On the 5th of July, several domains belonging to PROTESTANTS were burned, and on the 6th a still greater number. — The Steward (*Gerisseur*) of the estate of Guiraudin WAS STRETCHED OVER A FIRE. After his death, they too him down and exhibited the body to passengers. The 7th, 8th, and 9th, were more calm days; there were only pillages. On the 5th, they MASSACRED almost all the prisoners who were PROTESTANTS. A pretended national guard, formed of all the malefactors, and of all the worthless wretches of the environs and the town, are accused of these crimes. One of the Captains is a person of the name of Toislajon, a sweeper of the streets, who alone has killed fourteen PROTESTANTS. They broke open the grave of a young PROTESTANT girl to throw her into a common receptacle of filth. Those PROTESTANTS whom they do not kill they exile, and throw into prison, and yet there were a great number of ROYALISTS among them.

"From the 10th to the 14th of July no Courier from Paris arrived. On the 16th the King was proclaimed, by the Urban Guard (composed of men between 40 and 60 years of age) followed by all the most respectable persons in the town, and the white flag was hoisted.

"On the 17th armed bands of brigands, and the national guards of Beaucaire came to disarm the military, who sustained an assault in the barracks, and they were almost all massacred. Their number amounted to 200.

"On the 18th many peaceable citizens were massacred—many houses pillaged. On the afternoon of that cruel morning, the mad wretches run about the town



“ calling out that they wished A SECOND SAINT BARTHOLOMEW.

“ On the 19th the Prefect published a Proclamation, recalling the peaceable persons who had quitted the town; they obeyed this order, and a great number were assassinated.

“ From the 20th to the 29th, the pillages and assassinations did not discontinue. Those who sought their safety in flight were assassinated on the roads. Some were conducted into prisons where they are still groaning.

“ On the 29th the Prefect of the King arrived. The other Prefect had been named by — the Royal Commissioner.

“ On the 30th, a TE DEUM was chaunted. On the 1st the new Prefect published a very prudent proclamation, but he quitted Nismes.

“ On the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, M. de Calviere, the person whom the Royal Commissioner had named, resumed the functions of Prefect, and 16 PROTESTANTS were massacred. They went about seizing them in their houses, and they cut their throats before their own doors. Many were massacred in the fields. The night between the 1st and 2d was the most cruel. M. de Calviere caused an order to be posted up, which seems to have somewhat calmed these PRETENDED ROYALISTS. (Mark this!) On the 4th several country seats were set on fire.

“ The peaceable citizens, the Members of the Urban Guard, have been again forced to flee to save themselves from destruction. The Prefect sent an order to them to return, under the penalty of having the laws respecting emigration put in force against them. Those who returned into the town experienced either death or captivity. It is uncertain whether M. de Moncalm or M. de Calviere is most guilty of allowing or causing the commission of all these horrors; but suspicion falls principally on the former, who is a ROYAL COMMISSIONER, (Mark this!) and whom it is said, the King had a considerable time ago ordered to cease his functions.

“ Nothing promises any security to the friends of order; for all the authorities, with the exception of two persons, are composed of the most timided feeble men.

“ The Attornies (Notaires) and the Avocats have formed resolutions not to retain or to receive into their bodies any but Roman Catholics. (Mark this!)

“ Nismes has already lost its rank amongst the commercial towns. It is on the brink of complete annihilation.

“ The Prefect named by the King was a M<sup>r</sup>. d'Arbot; he has done no good. The foreign troops have been implored to force the brigands to repose, and to assist the TRUE ROYALISTS, for the brigands ABUSE THIS NAME (Mark this!) which they will render universally odious.

“ The number of deaths is prodigious; we have not an exact enumeration.

“ Horrors of the same kind are continued in the neighbouring towns.”

Come, come! Don't turn your heads on one side. Be not ashamed! Look at it. Any religion is better than no religion at all,” is it? But that is not the question here; for these are PROTESTANTS, mind, who are stabbed, shot, burnt by ROYALISTS. That is the fact. Here are Protestants butchered by the friends of those for whose restoration you have put up thanksgiving.

The COURIER, from whom I take this horrible account, wonders why the PROTESTANTS became objects of such atrocities; “for,” says he, “they were not more friendly to Bonaparte than the Catholics.” Oh! yes, but they were, and this was evidently their offence. They knew, they felt, which government was best for them. They loved the revolution. They were for the new dynasty in preference to the old. They were against the restoration of the paternal Bourbons. And, will you say, that they deserved to be burnt alive, or to have their throats cut for this? Come! you may as well go the whole length, and say it at once; for you will have full credit for the sentiment. It is clear, that this was, and is (for it is still going on) an attack by “the Royal and Christian army,” as the impious and bloody writer of the TIMES calls such perfidious and cowardly wretches. The country-houses of the Protestants were, I dare say, monkish property, which the Protestants had purchased, and of which the priests have taken this method of despoiling them.—The chaunting of the *Te Deum* was quite in style. There need now only a process



sion by the Pope, as was the case in honour of the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and another procession at Boston, in commemoration of this new triumph of "the Royal and Christian army" of France, this bastion of "the bulwark of religion." What blessings France is likely to owe to the paternal Bourbons! The priests are at work, and blood will flow in torrents. Mr. WALTER, of the TIMES news-paper, will begin now to enjoy himself.

WM. COBBETT.

## OFFICIAL PAPERS.

### REPORT

*Relative to the Killing and Wounding of the American Citizens imprisoned at Dartmoor.*

(FROM THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER, July 14.)

*Plymouth, April 26, 1815.*

We, the undersigned Commissioners, appointed on behalf of our respective Governments, to inquire into and report upon, the unfortunate occurrence of the 6th of April instapt, at Dartmoor prison, having carefully perused the proceedings of the several Courts of Inquiry, instituted immediately after that event, by the orders of Admiral Sir John T. Duckworth and Major-General Brown, respectively, as well as the depositions taken at the coroner's inquest, upon the bodies of the prisoners who lost their lives upon that melancholy occasion; upon which inquest the jury found a verdict of justifiable homicide: proceeded immediately to the examination upon oath, in the presence of one or more of the Magistrates of the vicinity, of all the witnesses, both American and English, who offered themselves for that purpose, or who could be discovered as likely to afford any material information on the subject, as well those who had been previously examined before the coroner as otherwise, to the number in the whole of about 80. We further proceeded to a minute examination of the prisons, for the purpose of clearing up some points which, upon the evidence alone, were scarcely intelligible; obtaining from the prisoners, and from the officers of the depot, all the necessary assistance and explanation; premising, that we have been from necessity compelled to draw many of our conclusions from statements and evidence highly contradictory, we do now make upon the whole proceedings the following report:—

During the period which has elapsed since the arrival in this country of the account of the ratification of the Treaty of Ghent, an increased degree of restlessness and impatience of confinement appears to have prevailed amongst the American prisoners at Dartmoor, which, though not exhibited in the shape of any violent excesses, has been principally indicated by threats of breaking out if not soon released. On the 4th of this month in particular, only two days previous to the events, the subject of this inquiry, a large body of the prisoners rushed into the market square, from whence, by the regulations of the prison, they are excluded, demanding bread, instead of biscuit, which had on that day been issued by the officers of the depot; their demands, however, having been then almost immediately complied with, they returned to their own yards, and the employment of force on that occasion became unnecessary. On the evening of the 6th, about six o'clock, it was clearly proved to us, that a breach or hole had been made in one of the prison walls sufficient for a full sized man to pass, and that others had been commenced in the course of the day near the same spot, though never completed. That a number of the prisoners went over the railing erected to prevent them from communicating with the centinels on the walls, which was of course forbidden by the regulations of the prison, and that in the space between the railing and those walls they were tearing up pieces of turf, and wantonly pelting each other in a noisy and disorderly manner. That a much more considerable number of the prisoners was collected together at that time in one of their yards near the place where the breach was effected, and that although such collection of prisoners was not unusual at other times (the gambling tables being usually kept in that part of the yard), yet, when connected with the circumstances of the breach, and the time of the day, which was after the hour the signal for the prisoners to retire to their respective prisons had ceased to sound, it became a natural and just ground of alarm to those who had charge of the depot. It was also in evidence that in the building, formerly the petty officers' prison, but now the guard barrack, with stands in the yard to which the hole in the wall would serve as a communication, a part of the arms of the guard who were off duty were usually kept in the racks, and though there was no evidence that this was in any respect the motive which induced the



prisoners to make the opening in the wall, or even that they were ever acquainted with the fact, it naturally became at least a further cause of suspicion and alarm, and an additional reason for precaution. Upon these grounds Captain Shortland appears to us to have been justified in giving the order, which about this time he seems to have given, to sound the alarm bell, the usual signal for collecting the officers of the depot and putting the military upon the alert.

However reasonable and justifiable this was as a measure of precaution, the effects produced thereby in the prisons, but which could not have been intended, were most unfortunate, and deeply to be regretted. A considerable number of the prisoners in the yards where no disturbances existed before, and who were either already within their respective prisons, or quietly retiring as usual towards them, immediately upon the sound of the bell rushed back from curiosity (as it appears) towards the gates, where, by that time, the crowd had assembled, and many who were at the time absent from their yards were also, from the plan of the prison, compelled, in order to reach their own homes, to pass by the same spot, and thus that which was merely a measure of precaution, in its operation increased the evil it was intended to prevent. Almost at the same instant that the alarm bell rang (but whether before or subsequent is upon the evidence doubtful, though Capt. Shortland states it positively as one of his further reasons for causing it to ring) some one or more of the prisoners broke the iron chain, which was the only fastening of No. 1 gate, leading into the market square, by means of an iron bar; and a very considerable number of the prisoners rushed towards that gate, and many of them began to press forward as fast as the opening would permit into the square. There was no direct proof before us of previous concert or preparation on the part of the prisoners, and no evidence of their intention or disposition to effect their escape on this occasion, excepting that which arose by inference from the whole of the above detailed circumstances connected together. The natural and almost irresistible inference to be drawn, however, from the conduct of the prisoners by Capt. Shortland and the military was, that an intention on the part of the prisoners to escape was on the point of being carried into execution; and it was at least certain that they were by force passing beyond the limits prescribed to them, at a time when

they ought to have been quietly going in for the night. It was also in evidence that the outer gates of the market-square were usually opened about this time, to let the bread waggon pass and repass to the store, although, at the period in question, they were, in fact, closed. Under these circumstances, and with these impressions necessarily operating upon his mind, and a knowledge that if the prisoners once penetrated through the square, the power of escape was almost to a certainty afforded to them, should they be so disposed, Capt. Shortland, in the first instance, proceeded down the square towards the prisoners, having ordered a part of the different guards, to the number of about 50 only at first, though they were increased afterwards, to follow him. For some time both he and Dr. Magrath endeavoured, by quiet means and persuasion, to induce the prisoners to retire to their own yards, explaining to them the fatal consequences which must ensue if they refused, as the military would in that case be necessarily compelled to employ force. The guard was by this time formed in the rear of Captain Shortland, about two-thirds of the way down the square; the latter is about one hundred feet broad, and the guard extended nearly all across. Captain Shortland finding that persuasion was all in vain, and that, although some were induced by it to make an effort to retire, others pressed on in considerable numbers, at last ordered about fifteen file of the guard, nearly in front of the gate, which had been forced, to charge the prisoners back to their own yards. The prisoners were in some places so near the military, that one of the soldiers states, that he could not come fairly down to the charge; and the military were unwilling to act as against an enemy. Some of the prisoners also were unwilling and reluctant to retire, and some pushing and struggling ensued between the parties, arising partly from intention, but mainly from the pressure of those behind preventing those in front from getting back. After some little time, however, this charge appears to have been so far effective, and that with little or no injury to the prisoners, as to have driven them for the most part quite down out of the square, with the exception of a small number who continued their resistance about No. 1 gate. A great crowd still remained collected after this in the passage between the square and the prisoners' yards, in the vicinity of the gates. This assemblage still refused to withdraw, and,



according to most of the English witnesses, and some of the American, was making a noise, hallooing, insulting, and provoking, and daring the military to fire; and, according to the evidence of several of the soldiers and some others, was pelting the military with large stones, by which some of them were actually struck. This circumstance is, however, denied by many of the American witnesses; and some of the English, upon having the question put to them, stated, they saw no stones thrown previously to the firing, although their situation at the time was such as to enable them to see most of the other proceedings in the square.

Under these circumstances the firing commenced. With regard to any order having been given to fire, the evidence is very contradictory. Several of the Americans swear positively, that Captain Shortland gave that order; but the manner in which, from the confusion of the moment, they describe this part of the transaction, is so different in its details, that it is very difficult to reconcile their testimony. Many of the soldiers and other English witnesses heard the word given by some one; but no one of them can swear it was by Captain Shortland, or by any one in particular, and some, amongst whom is the officer commanding the guard, think, if Captain Shortland had given such an order, that they must have heard it, which they did not. In addition to this, Captain Shortland denies the fact; and from the situation in which he appears to have been placed at the time, even according to the American witnesses, in front of the soldiers, it may appear somewhat improbable that he should then have given such an order. But, however, it may remain a matter of doubt whether the firing first began in the square by order, or was a spontaneous act of the soldiers themselves, it seemed clear that it was continued and renewed, both there and elsewhere, without orders; and that on the platforms, and in several places about the prison, it was certainly commenced without any authority. The fact of an order having been given at first, provided the firing was, under existing circumstances, justifiable, does not appear very material in any other point of view than as shewing a want of self-possession and discipline in the troops, if they should have fired without order.

With regard to the above important consideration, of whether the firing was justifiable or not, we are of opinion, under all the circumstances of the case, from the appre-

hension which the soldiers might fairly entertain, owing to the numbers and conduct of the prisoners, that this firing to a certain extent, was justifiable, in a military point of view, in order to intimidate the prisoners, and compel them thereby to desist from all acts of violence, and to retire as they were ordered, from a situation in which the responsibility of the agents, and the military, could not permit them with safety to remain. From the fact of the crowd being so close, and the firing at first being attended with very little injury, it appears probable that a large proportion of the muskets were, as stated by one or two of the witnesses, levelled over the heads of the prisoners; a circumstance in some respects to be lamented, as it induced them to renew their insults to the soldiery, which produced a repetition of the firing in a manner much more destructive. The firing in the square having continued for some time, by which several of the prisoners sustained injuries, the greater part of them appear to have been running back, with the utmost precipitation and confusion, to their respective prisons, and the cause for further firing seems at this period to have ceased. It appears, accordingly, that Captain Shortland was in the market-square, exerting himself and giving orders to that effect, and that Lieutenant Fortye had succeeded in stopping the fire of his part of the guard.

Under these circumstances, it is very difficult to find any justification for the continuance and renewal of the firing, which certainly took place both in the prison yards and elsewhere: though we have some evidence of subsequent provocation given to the military, and resistance to the turnkeys in shutting the prisons, and of stones being thrown out from within the prison doors. The subsequent firing rather appears to have arisen from individual irritation and exasperation on the part of the soldiers who followed the prisoners into their yards, and from the absence of nearly all the officers who might have restrained it; as well as from the great difficulty of putting an end to a firing when once commenced under such circumstances. Captain Shortland was from this time busily occupied with the turnkeys in the square, receiving and taking care of the wounded. Ensign White remained with his guard at the breach, and Lieutenants Avelyne and Fortye, the only other subalterns known to have been present, continued in the square with the main bodies of their respective guards. The time



of the day, which was the officers dinner hour, will in some measure explain this, as it caused the absence of every officer from the prison whose presence was not indispensable there—and this circumstance, which has been urged as an argument to prove the intention of the prisoners to take this opportunity to escape, tended to increase the confusion, and to prevent those great exertions being made which might perhaps have obviated a portion, at least, of the mischief which ensued. At the same time that the firing was going on in the square, a cross fire was also kept up from several of the platforms on the walls round the prison where the sentries stand, by straggling parties of soldiers, who run up there for that purpose. As far as this fire was directed to disperse the men assembled round the breach, for which purpose it was most effectual, it seems to stand upon the same ground as that in the first instance in the square. But that part which it is positively sworn was directed against straggling parties of prisoners running about the yards, and endeavouring to enter in the few doors which the turnkeys, according to their usual practice, had left open, does seem, as stated, to have been wholly without object or excuse, and to have been a wanton attack upon the lives of defenceless, and at that time, unoffending individuals. In the same, or even more severe terms, we must remark upon what was proved as to the firing into the door ways of the prisons, more particularly into that of No. 3 prison, at a time when the men were in crowds at the entrance. From the position of the prison and of the door, and from the marks of the balls which were pointed out to us, as well as from the evidence, it was clear this firing must have proceeded from soldiers a very few feet from the door way, and although it was certainly sworn that the prisoners were at the time of part of the firing at least continuing to insult and occasionally to throw stones at the soldiers, and that they were standing in the way of, and impeding the turnkey, who was there for the purpose of closing the door, yet still there was nothing stated which could in our view at all justify such excessively harsh and severe treatment of helpless and unarmed prisoners when all idea of escape was at an end. Under these impressions, we used every endeavour to ascertain if there was the least prospect of identifying any of the soldiers who had been guilty of the particular outrages here alluded to, or of tracing any particular death at that

time to the firing of any particular individual, but without success; and all hopes of bringing the offenders to punishment should seem to be at an end.

In conclusion, we, the undersigned, have only to add, that whilst we lament, as we do most deeply, the unfortunate transaction which has been the subject of this inquiry, we find ourselves totally unable to suggest any steps to be taken as to those parts of it which seem most to call for redress and punishment.

(Signed) CHARLES KING.

FRANCIS SEYMOUR LARPENT.

*Plymouth, April 26, 1815.*

SIR—In pursuance of instructions received from Messrs. Clay and Gallatin, I have now the honour to transmit to you the report prepared by Mr. Larpent and myself on behalf of our respective Governments, in relation to the unfortunate transactions at Dartmoor prison of war, on the 6th of the present month. Considering it of much importance that the report, whatever it might be, should go forth under our joint signatures, I have forborne to press some of the points which it involves, as far as otherwise I might have done, and it therefore may not be improper in this letter to enter into some little explanation of such parts of the report. Although it does appear that a part of the prisoners were on that evening in such a state, and under such circumstances, as to have justified, in the view which the commander of the depot could not but take of it, the intervention of the military force, and even, in a strict sense, the first use of fire arms, yet I cannot but express it as my settled opinion, that by conduct a little more temporising, this dreadful alternative of firing upon unarmed prisoners might have been avoided. Yet as this opinion has been the result of subsequent examination, and after having acquired a knowledge of the comparatively harmless state of the prisoners, it may be but fair to consider, whether in such a moment of confusion and alarm, as that appears to have been, the officer commanding could have fairly estimated his danger, or have measured out with precision the extent and nature of the force necessary to guard against it. But when the firing became general, as it afterwards appears to have done, and caught with electric rapidity from the square to the platforms, there is no plea nor shadow of excuse for it, except in the per-



sonal exasperation of the soldiery, nor for the more deliberate, and therefore more unjustifiable, firing, which took place into three of the prisons, Nos. 1, 3, and 4, but more particularly into No. 3, after the prisoners had retired into them, and there was no longer any pretence of apprehensions as to their escape. Upon this ground, as you, Sir, will perceive by the report, Mr. Larpent and myself had no difference of opinion; and I am fully persuaded that my own regret was not greater than his, at perceiving how hopeless would be the attempt to trace to any individuals of the military these outrageous proceedings. As to whether the order to fire came from Captain Shortland, I yet confess myself unable to form any satisfactory opinion, though, perhaps, the bias of my mind is, that he did give such an order. But his anxiety and exertions to stop it after it had continued for some little time are fully proved, and his general conduct previous to this occurrence, as far as we could with propriety enter into such details, appears to have been characterised with tenderness, and even kindness, in the light in which he stood towards the prisoners. On the subject of any complaints against their own Government existing among the prisoners, it was invariably answered to several distinct questions put by me on that head, that none whatsoever existed or had been expressed by them, although they confessed themselves to entertain some animosity against Mr. Beasley, to whom they attributed their detention in this country—with what justice, you, Sir, will be better able to judge. They made no complaint whatsoever as to their provisions and general mode of living and treatment in the prison. I have transmitted to Mr. Beasley a list of the killed and wounded on this melancholy occasion, with a request that he would forward it to the United States for the information of their friends at home, and I am pleased to have it in my power to say, that the wounded are for the most part doing well. I have also enclosed to Mr. Beasley the notes taken by me of the evidence adduced before us, with a request that he would have them fairly copied; as also a copy of the depositions taken before the Coroner, and desired him to submit them to you when in order. I cannot conclude, Sir, without expressing my high sense of the impartiality and manly fairness with which this enquiry has been conducted on the part of Mr. Larpent, nor without mentioning that every facility was afforded to us

in its prosecution, as well by the military officers commanding here and at the prison, as by the Magistrates in the vicinity. I have the honour to be, with much respect, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) CHARLES KING.

His Excellency J. Q. Adams, &c.

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*London, April 18, 1815.*

SIR,—At the request of Lord Castlereagh, we have had interviews with him and Mr. Goulburn, on the subject of the transportation of the American prisoners now in this country, to the United States, and of the late unfortunate event at the depot of Dartmoor. On the first subject, we agreed to advise your acceptance of the proposition of Lord Castlereagh, to transport the prisoners at the joint expence of the two countries, reserving the construction of the articles of the treaty, which provides for the mutual restoration of prisoners, for future adjustment. It was stated by us, and was so understood, that the joint expence, thus to be incurred, is to comprehend as well the requisite tonnage, as the subsistence of the prisoners; and moreover, that measures of precaution should be adopted relative to the health and conduct of the prisoners, similar to those which had taken place in America. The detail of this arrangement, if you concur with us as to the expediency of making it, are left to you to settle with the proper British authority. On the other subject, as a statement of the transaction has been received from the American prisoners, differing very materially in fact from that which had resulted from an inquiry instituted by the Port Admiral, it has been thought advisable that some means should be devised of procuring information as to the real state of the case, in order, on the one hand, to shew that there had not been any wanton or improper sacrifice of the lives of American citizens; or, on the other, to enable the British Government to punish their civil or military officers, if it should appear that they have resorted to measures of extreme severity without necessity, or with too much precipitation. Lord Castlereagh proposed that the enquiry should be a joint one, conducted by a Commissioner selected by each Government. And we have thought such an enquiry most likely to produce an impartial and satisfactory result. We presume that you will have too much occupation on the first subject and the other incidental duties of



your office, to attend to this enquiry in person. On that supposition we have stated to the British government that we should recommend to you the selection of Charles King, Esq. as a fit person to conduct it in behalf of the American government. If Mr. King will undertake the business, he will forthwith proceed to Dartmoor, and in conjunction with the British Commissioner, who may be appointed on the occasion, will examine the persons concerned, and such other evidence as may be thought necessary, and make a joint report upon the facts of the case to John Q. Adams, Esq. Minister

Plenipotentiary of the United States at this Court, and to the British Government. The mode of executing this service must be left to the discretion of Mr. King and his colleague. If they can agree upon a narrative of the facts, after having heard the evidence, it will be better than reporting the whole mass of testimony in detail, which they may perhaps find it necessary to do, if they cannot come to such an agreement.— We are, Sir, your obedient humble servants,

(Signed) H. CLAY.

ALBERT GALLATIN.

R. G. Beasley, Esq.

**PRICES CURRENT in London; Prices of FUNDS in England and France; and Number of BANKRUPTCIES in Great Britain, during the last week.**

**BREAD.**—The Quartern Loaf, weighing 4lb. 5oz. 8drams, 11½d.

**WHEAT.**—The Winchester Bushel, or 8 gallons (corn and beer measure), taken on an average of all the prices at Mark Lane Market, 8s. 3d.

**MEAT.**—The average wholesale price per Pound weight, at Smithfield Market, where the skin and offal are not reckoned at any thing in the price.—Beef, 6½d; Mutton, 6½d.; Veal, 8½; Pork, 6d; Lamb, 8½d.

**WOOL.**—Vigonia, 16s.; Portugal, 3s.; Spanish Lamb, 9s. 3d.; Leonosa, 7s. 3d.; Segovia, 5s. 9d.; Seville, 4s. 6d.;—This wool is washed and picked.—Wool Imported last week:—From Germany, 28,800lbs.—From Russia, 144,000lbs.

**BULLION.**—Gold in bars, £4 9s. per ounce.—New Dollars, 5s. 7d. each.—Silver in bars, none.—N. B. These are the prices in Bank of England paper.—In gold coin of the English Mint, an ounce of gold in bars is worth 3l. 17s. 10½d.—Standard Silver in bars, in the coin of the English Mint, is worth 5s. 2d. an ounce. In the same coin a Spanish Dollar is worth 4s. 6d.

**ENGLISH FUNDS.**—The price of the THREE Per Centum Consolidated Annuities, in Bank Paper; 56½.

**FRENCH FUNDS.**—The price of the FIVE Per Cents, in gold and silver money; 62.

**BANKRUPTCIES.**—Number, during the last week, published in the London Gazette, 27.

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